

Statehouse Update June 2023

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From the Office of State Representative Mary Lightbody
House District 4 | 614-466-4847 <><> Rep04@ohiohouse.gov



Dear Neighbor,

Happy June! This month, the 2024-2025 Operating Budget will come back to the House from the Senate. No doubt there will be a conference committee to reconcile the differences, but the Operating Budget bill must be passed by both chambers and signed into law by the governor before July first. I supported the budget that passed out of the House, because it fully funds our public schools, includes funding for Ohio's food banks, and invests in affordable housing.

June is Pride Month! To show Ohio is open for business to the nation, we must be an inclusive state where all people, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation, can live, work and raise a family safely and securely. No one should live in fear of being bullied, fired, or otherwise discriminated against simply because of who they are or who they love.

On June 19th, we observe Juneteenth, a day to celebrate African American freedom and achievements, while looking to our own self-development as Americans and our respect for the freedom and liberty of all cultures. I continue to prioritize building up Black families and all Ohioans with legislation centered on health, housing, education, jobs, criminal justice reform and supporting minority owned businesses.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lightbody". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Mary Lightbody
State Representative
Ohio House District 4

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****To unsubscribe, please reply to this email to opt-out.****

Open Office Hours

I hope you will join me for open office hours. There is no RSVP needed. Please contact my office if you would prefer a private meeting.

Thursday, June 15

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

New Albany Library Meeting Room 2
200 Market St, New Albany, OH 43054

Thursday, June 22

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Westerville Library Pink Room
126 S State Street, Westerville, OH 43081

New Voter ID Law

Please be advised that the voter ID requirements included in [House Bill 458](#) went into effect in April. A utility bill as proof of address will no longer be accepted, so please note the changes:

There are three ways to vote in Ohio:

- Vote Early by Mail (No photo ID required)
- Vote Early in Person with Photo ID
- Vote on Election Day with Photo ID

Photo IDs that DO work:

- Ohio Driver's license, State of Ohio ID, or interim ID issued by the BMV
- US Passport
- US military ID

FAQs:

- State of Ohio IDs are free at your [local BMV](#) to any Ohioan 17 and older. To obtain State ID, you will need proof of your legal name, date of birth, legal presence in the United States, social security number (if applicable), and Ohio residence. For more information, click here: <https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/static/free-ID-palm-card.pdf>
- A former address on the ID is fine
- College IDs DO NOT work
- ID MUST be current, not expired

District 4 Spotlight

Congratulations to the Gahanna Lincoln High School girls track team who won the Track State Championships!

- Amryne Chilton, Aliyah Bennett, Keena Sanders, and Camden Bentley won the 1600 relay!
- Camden Bentley set a record in the preliminary heat and went on to win the 100 hurdles and the 300 hurdles!

Congratulations to Westerville Winds for winning first place at the 2023 Ohio Indoor Performance Association Championship!

Congratulations to Brandon Carpico, of Gahanna Lincoln High School, for winning the Division I state tennis singles championship!

Congratulations to Romearo Wells, Maxwell Cummings, Andrew Pizzico and Makai Shahid, of Gahanna Lincoln for winning the 800 relay State Championship.

Celebrate Pride

June is Pride Month, a time for LGBTQ+ communities to celebrate their identities and experiences. To my dismay, several bills proposed in the Ohio House this year (anti-transgender and discriminatory bills like [HB 8](#) and [HB 68](#)) stigmatize and discriminate against members of this community. I have strongly opposed them and in the next few weeks will be introducing bills that would provide protections for those who identify themselves as LGBTQ+, all of whom are important and active members of our communities.

In June 2020, the [U.S. Supreme Court ruled](#) that LGBTQ+ workers are protected from workplace discrimination under federal law. However, it is still legal in Ohio for members of the LGBTQ+ community to lose their job, be denied housing or be denied healthcare because of who they are or whom they love.

To show Ohio is open for business to the nation, we must be an inclusive state where all people, no matter their gender identity, can live, work and raise a family safely and securely. No one should live in fear of being bullied, fired, or otherwise discriminated against simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Out and about in District 4 (and the Statehouse)!



Thank you to all of the constituents and neighbors who attended the Town Hall at the Gahanna Library and brought great questions!



I was glad to participate in the Annual New Albany Founder's Day Parade



Ribbon Cutting at the Raines Group in New Albany



Press conference to announce the introduction of [House Bill 171](#)



Speaking with two people from the Center for Disability Empowerment

Central Ohio Worker Center

The Central Ohio Worker Center works to educate, empower, and advocate for and with low-wage and immigrant workers in Central Ohio. To contact them or learn more, go to <https://centralohioworkercenter.org/>, email centralohioworkercenter@gmail.com, or call 614-256-7191.

Building Back Better Together

The Building Back Better Together Program is an eight-week job training and skills development program that seeks to strengthen our communities by providing participants with a clear path to the middle class. After successful completion, participants will be connected to high demand job opportunities after graduation. The program provides a weekly \$150 stipend for participants meeting attendance and performance standards.

Ready to apply? Have questions? Email Bailey at bailey@ccohf.org

Know before you Dig

Columbia Gas operates a network of pipelines and related equipment which helps to bring clean-burning natural gas to buildings in your area. To find out about the pipelines around your house, you can visit phmsa.dot.gov. If you have a pipeline on your property, Columbia Gas has a right-of-way agreement to allow them to inspect and maintain their pipelines. You can learn more at ColumbiaGasOhio.com/Encroachment. If you are planning to excavate, call 811 or visit <https://oups.org/> at least two full working days before work begins. If while working you happen to hit a pipeline, evacuate the area and immediately call 911. The smell of natural gas is said to be like rotten eggs or sulfur. If you can recognize this smell, it can alert you to a natural gas leak. If you think you smell natural gas, stop what you are doing, leave the area, and call 911 and NIPSCO (1-800-634-3524). Protecting natural gas lines is a shared responsibility. Do your part to help your community.

Opposing Dangerous Gun Legislation

Gun violence is an issue that plagues communities all across Ohio. Yet the partisan majority continues to pass extreme legislation that a majority of Ohioans do not want. The most recent effort is [House Bill \(HB\) 51](#). This bill would simply put our children and communities in danger. Because of the already abhorrent lack of gun safety measures in Ohio, the Gun Violence Expansion Act would allow anyone barred in another state from registering for a gun due to a legal disability there to easily come to our state and purchase a gun here, no questions asked. I would prefer to work on bills that focus on gun safety in order to ensure the safety of our communities, families, and children. I am here to listen to the people and keep our communities safe.

June Dates of Note

Pride Month Happy Pride Month! I am proud to celebrate our vibrant and diverse LGBTQ+ community. There are a number of celebrations planned in OH-04 and Central Ohio:

- Pride New Albany is hosting events all month long, including a City Council Proclamation on June 6, Pride New Albany Day on June 8, and walking in Columbus Pride! Find a full list at <https://www.facebook.com/pridenewalbany/>
- The third annual Westerville Pride Festival will be June 10
<https://www.westervillequeercollective.org/event-details/westerville-pride-2023>
- Gahanna Jefferson Schools will be participating in the Pride Parade. Contact Jeffrey Glitt at (614) 471-7065 for more information
- The City of Gahanna issued a proclamation on June 1 recognizing Pride Month
<https://www.gahanna.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Pride-Month-2023-06.pdf>
- The Stonewall Columbus Pride March and Festival is on June 17
<https://stonewallcolumbus.org/pride/>

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month June is Alzheimer's Awareness Month. It is important to acknowledge the ongoing work to treat Alzheimer's, express gratitude for the health care heroes who treat those inflicted and remember the loved ones who have passed away due to the disease. I am committed to ensuring mental health programs are funded and supported.

African American Music Appreciation Month June is African American Appreciation Month where we honor the cultural achievements and contributions that African Americans have made in Ohio and the United States. Black musicians create community, stand up to inequality, and break down barriers. This month we celebrate Black artists from Ohio such as Tracy Chapman, Kid Cudi, and John Legend whose music entertains us and reminds us of Americans' struggle for equality.

National Pollinators Month Save the bees! National Pollinators Month brings awareness to the important role that pollinators play in ecosystems and the threats they are facing. We are dependent on pollinators for our food with nearly 80% of crop plants requiring pollination by animals. We rely on pollinators to feed us, making it alarming to see dwindling numbers of bees in the United States. Beekeepers in the U.S. lost 45% of their honeybee colonies from 2020-2021. This alarming trend shows we must do more to protect our planet and ecosystems. In Ohio, we will also recognize June 19-25 as Pollinator Week, following the passage of legislation in the last General Assembly joint sponsored by me and Rep. Skindell (D-Lakewood)

Gun Violence Prevention Month June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. The gun violence epidemic in America is out of control. Every day, we wake up to hear about a shooting that happened in our communities. I am committed to sponsoring, advocating, and voting for legislation that will curb gun violence: [HB 170](#) would prevent dangerous individuals from acquiring firearms, and [HB 175](#) would require the safe storage of firearms. These bills will make our communities safer and are crucial first steps to ending gun violence in America.

National CPR and AED Awareness Week (June 1-7) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillators (AEDs) save lives. June 1-7 is National CPR and AED Awareness Week. HB 47, sponsored by Rep. Brown (D-Columbus) would equip every school and sports location in Ohio with AEDs. Ensuring everyone knows CPR and has access to an AED will save lives.

National Cancer Survivors Day (June 4) Over 18 million Americans are cancer survivors, many of whom still struggle to overcome health or financial challenges left over by their cancer diagnosis. On National Cancer Survivors Day, I celebrate those who survived cancer while acknowledging the hardships that continue for many.

World Environment Day (June 5) From Hocking Hills to Lake Erie, Ohio is full of natural beauty. World Environment Day is an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of nature and all the benefits it provides us. Ohioans must protect our environment to ensure that future generations get to enjoy all Ohio has to offer.

D-Day (June 6) On this day 79 years ago, Allied forces landed in Normandy, beginning the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control. Thousands of American, British, and Canadian soldiers gave their lives for a free Europe. We must remember and honor the sacrifice of these brave soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to liberate Europe from fascism.

National Children's Day (June 11) Our children are our future. On National Children's Day, we reflect on the challenges many children around our state and country face. We need to ensure our children have access to a quality public education, food on the table, and a future to be hopeful about.

Women's Veterans Day (June 12) June 12th marks Women's Veterans Day. We honor the sacrifice and service of America's servicewomen. Over 200,000 women are active duty members of the United States Armed Forces with another 170,000 in the reserves/national guard. I am proud to celebrate the amazing women of our armed forces.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15) On June 15th, we observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It is important to learn the signs of abuse such as: An individual stops taking part in activities they enjoy, has unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, or scars, or displays signs of insufficient care or unpaid bills despite adequate financial resources. Learn more at the National Institute of Health's website here: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/elder-abuse#signs>

Father's Day (June 18) I wish all of the fathers in Ohio's Fourth District a Happy Father's Day!

Juneteenth (June 19) On Juneteenth, we celebrate the official end of slavery in the United States. Today we reflect on the history of slavery, the impact of which is still felt today. We also celebrate the sacrifices made by so many on the journey towards freedom and equality.

PTSD Awareness Day (June 27)

On PTSD Awareness Day, I want to highlight resources that individuals who suffer from PTSD can use to get help:

- Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services Toll-Free Bridge for referral and resources for mental health resources: 877-275-6364
- Ohio State Stress, Trauma and Resilience (STAR) program for professionals and survivors of trauma: 614-293-7827 (STAR)
Crisis support for Veterans: 988 then press 1 or 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) then press 1
- Mount Carmel Crime and Trauma Assistance Program (CTAP): 614-234-5900
Adult in crisis: 614-276-2273
Youth or adolescent in crisis: 614-722-1800
- Children: <https://www.handlewithcareoh.org/index.php>

I work for you

Please contact me about any issues of concern and reach out anytime for updates on legislation in committees or votes by the legislature, as well as any upcoming district events that you would like me to attend. Please contact my office at any time:

Office: 614-466-4847

Email: Rep04@ohiohouse.gov

